

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SIL-01 LAB-04 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 AGRE-00 /036 W
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R 301637Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2862
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL OPORTO POUCH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, EAGR, PO
SUBJ: POLICE AND ALENTEJO WORKERS CLASH OVER AGRARIAN REFORM

REF: (A) LISBON 6282 (DTG 121605Z AUG 77), (B) LISBON 5780
(DTG 261450Z JUL 77) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THIRTY WERE INJURED AND TWO ARRESTED AUGUST 29 WHEN
POLICE CLASHED TWICE WITH PCP-LED FARM WORKERS OVER AGRARIAN REFORM
IMPLEMENTATION NEAR EVORA. THESE FIRST SERIOUS INCIDENTS
SINCE PASSAGE OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW AUGUST 10 INDICATE
GOVERNMENT RESOLVE TO IMPLEMENT THE LAW. END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL GUARD AND POLICE UNITS SENT TO ASSIST GOVERNMENT
TECHNICIANS ENFORCING AGRARIAN REFORM CLASHED TWICE WITH
FARM WORKERS IN AND NEAR THE CITY OF EVORA IN THE ALENTEJO
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AUGUST 29.

2. THE FIRST INCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN REGION CENTER FOR AGRARIAN
REFORM TECHNICIANS WENT TO DEMARCATÉ PART OF A COOPERATIVE FARM
FORE RETURN TO PREVIOUS OWNERS. THE TECHNICIANS ARRIVED THE
MORNING OF AUGUST 29, BUT RETREATED IN THE FACE OF WORKER
OPPOSITION. THE TECHNICIANS, BACKED UP BY GNR UNITS, RETURNED

IN THE AFTERNOON. IN THE ENSUING ENCOUNTER BETWEEN THE
POLICE AND WORKERS, FIFTEEN WERE INJURED AND TWO ARRESTED.

3. THIS INCIDENT WAS FOLLOWED BY ADDITIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS
IN THE CITY OF EVORA INVOLVING PSP UNITS, IN WHICH ANOTHER
FIFTEEN WORKERS WERE INJURED.

4. COMMENT: THE INCIDENTS ARE THE FIRST VIOLENT CLASHES
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNIST-LED FARM WORKERS
IN THE ALENTEJO SINCE THE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW WAS
PASSED AUGUST 10. THE GOVERNMENT'S USE OF PSP INTERVENTION
FORCES DEMONSTRATES ITS WILLINGNESS TO IMPLEMENT THE REFORM.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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